UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

Maryland	
COUNTY	
Harford	
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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (II known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The balanced lines of the D. H. Springhouse, a little grey stone building set into the base of a steep hill, attract the eye at first glance, and then several exceptional details, one by one, hold the attention.

This is a stone springhouse with a schoolroom above, sixteen feet six inches by twenty-three feet, with one narrow wall set into the bank over several fresh springs. It measures two bays by one. The A-roof ridgeline runs east-west.

The quality of stonemasonry is notable. All corner stones and all stones facing west, south, and east, are perfect ashlar, precisely cut rectangles smoothly finished on all six sides. Even courses fit the quoins. Lintels and sills bear traces of finely-notched chisel lines, parallel or radiating to a perfect curve at each end.

Entry to the schoolroom is through a wide doorway a few steps above the high ground at the west wall. Two windows with pegged oak frames, double hung, six lights over six, are located in the north and south walls. Shutter hinges and hooks are still in place.

Entry to the springhouse below is through a wide round arch in the south wall, made of nine stones, four on each side of the perfect keystone. On this level there are two rooms. The first, smaller, is the churn room with a small fireplace in the northwest corner, used to keep the butter and cheese warm enough in winter.

The springhouse, about fourteen feet square, had underwater shelves of stone on which crocks of milk and cream were set. Here the swirling springwater kept them cool but above freezing. Dairy products and meats and other perishable foods for the family and some of the young livestock were kept for a day or so this way.

Features of the stonemasonry skill include three window lintels with a rams-horn pattern finely etched with radiating chisel lines. The east end wall has a large stone plaque with scrolls and columns in low relief around a raised oval, gracefully inscribed "D. H. 1816." The peak of the east wall is topped with a square stone base that supports a tapering four-sided arm under a tiny Ionic capitol. The capitol supports a one-inch cube centered under a perfect sphere which measures about six inches in diameter. All of this is formed from a single stone.

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sessions as justice of the Circuit Court in Bel Air

There is an unresolved mystery surrounding the craftsman-architect-stonemason who built the springhouse. Two sources say that his initials were "D. H.," the letters that are carved on a plaque on the east wall of the springhouse. A third source gives him another name and no explanation of the inscription. A former owner who knew several of Smithson's descendants says that "D. H." was David Holland, a man fanatically devoted to his craft. He denies the legend that Holland was an alcoholic who worked only for an unstinted supply of The historian William Stump Forwood wrote in 1879 that he knew of a David Hopkins who, according to him, built many of the fine Stump-family houses at Rock Run, Stafford, and Darlington, before working on the D. H. Springhouse. Forwood terms this latter building "[Hopkins'] monument . . . [a] beautiful piece of stonecutting known far and near . . [which] bears the initials of the builder and the date of its construction.'

A springhouse has interest as an element of country living on a comfortable if not luxurious scale and as a combination of utilitarian architecture and natural beauty. This particular springhouse is a superb little building of excellent craftsmanship, contrasting dramatically with its isolated setting.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Interview with Paul B. Harlon, at Churchville, October 14, 1971.

Forwood, William Stump. "Homes on Deer Creek." Article 1 of 5 in a series in the newspaper, AEgis-Intelligencer, Bel Air, Maryland. December 19, 1879.

List of deeds traced in Harford County Land Records by Jean Ewing, Maryland Historical Trust, November 1971.

[see continuation sheet]

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Form 10-300a (July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

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(Continuation Sheet)

(Number all entries)

"D. H. Springhouse"

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES, continued

Preston Walter W. <u>History of Harford County</u>. Baltimore: Sun Book Office, 1901. pp. 219-221.

Facamant

N. R. FIELD SHEET

Form 10-300 (Dec. 1968)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

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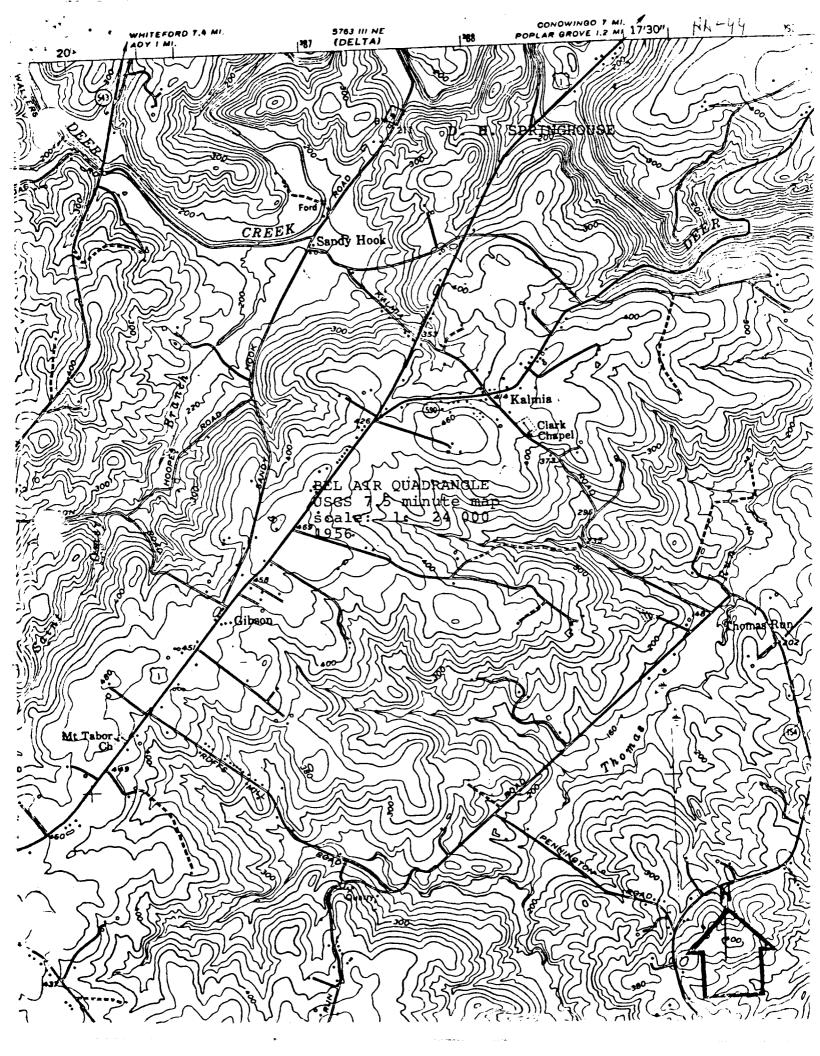
HA-44

Here are 13 more slikes of 4A 44 The DH Spring house According to Paul Harlan who bought the farm from the Webster family and sold to the present owner Coy tharpe, D. H. was Javie Holland who worked of the Websters (- In " Creek Neb" Webster, not Fat Ned his first cousin! The boom above is the old Webster family sohool room. There is a fire place on the lown level. I thought that stide was at Ammapolis. Dand telland carved and assembled a mountain block that I west get listed too. Two slides are at Aunapolis (MHT) a destauce shot of the sets, setting, A and a detail of carvier in that east goble. B. I suggest you Show A, 1, 2, B, 3, 4, 3 etc... Note the narrow bose to that

Mr Ridon

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p.H. Springhouse HA-44

Please Credit to:

Maryland Historical Trust 2525 Riva Road Annapolis, MD. 21401

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